

Omen 51.3



Submitted by Tucker Catanzaro

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(We forgot.)

Front Cover: Tucker Catanzaro

Back Cover: Tucker Catanzaro

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in any format (no PDFs please) by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu, the Omen Office or Ida's mailbox (1240)

Policy

The Omen is a bimonthly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: **we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous.** Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fanfiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

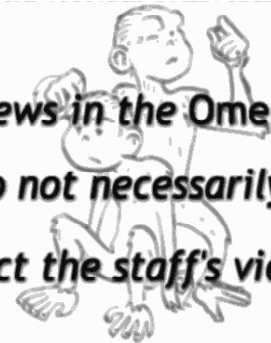
Your submission must include the name you use around campus: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. **Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of The Omen, the Omen editrix, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.**

Anyone can submit to the Omen, but you can also become Omen staff! Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for meetings, which usually takes place every Thursday night in the basement of Merrill B (past the laundry room); the only permanent position is that of editrix. You should come and answer the staff question. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on every other Thursday in Saga, the post office, online at <http://expelallo.men>, and just about any other place we can find to put it.

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)



EDITORIAL

Ida Kao

In lieu of a proper editorial, as a person living in the 21st Century and experiencing all of the multimedia wonders that the world has to offer, I would like to recommend an excellent little animation for Halloween! *The Backwater Gospel* is a short horror film by Bo Mathorne, published on YouTube in 2011. As a print publication, *The Omen* can't embed the video on this page. But it can paste the link to the video below! Or anyone interested can just Google "backwater gospel" and click on the first video that shows up, which is probably easier.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVkDrIacHJM>



<https://www.listal.com/viewimage/3515719>

SECTION SPEAK

DEAD RABBIT PORN

By Olivia Krzeminski

Hello, my name is Olivia and I love nerds. This week I interviewed a nerd I particularly love: my friend Jhivan, an opossum enthusiast. We have shared many an opossum meme in our time, but before this interview I did not know the backstory to their relationship with the creature. What I expected to be an interview founded on fun facts turned into a conversation on capitalism, humankind's relationship to nature, and what happens when you send loving energy out towards an entity. Unfortunately, the first bit of this interview is missing because both my transcribing and recording software failed me at around the same time, so disclaimer: the beginning portion of this interview has been salvaged from fucked software functioning, and memory.

First, would you like to introduce yourself?

I am a human dweller on an opossum land. My name is Jhivan, I don't have a possum name yet because they haven't fully invited me in, but I'll get there.

All right, rant away and I'll ask questions later if I need to.

[Missing chunk I'm sorry] What we have here in North America are opossums, not possums. The distinction is important because opossums are symbolic of anarchy and anti capitalist regime, and possums are just furry babies in Australia.

How are possums representative of anarchy and anticapitalist regime?

I'm glad you brought that up. So, opossums are really cool because they're not necessarily pack animals, but they're cooperative; they show empathy. I might be speaking out of my ass but I live in a better world where they do so. They're one of those animals that are a lot better for ecosystems than they're given credit for in pop representation. For example, in pop media, possums are a sign of hillbilly culture, they can be very trashy or bad. They're a rural animal, I'll give you

that, but possums are immune to the rabies virus: either their internal body temp is too low or too high to host it. They're one of the few animals that can actually eat ticks, and it's impossible to have a fear of ticks when there's a possum in your garden. Ticks represent the capitalist blood-sucking parasite, and possums represent the proletariat, ya know, eating them. Plus there are plenty of social media accounts such as @ruralresistance, @queerappalachia, and @possumkratom69 that have a following and have reclaimed the opossum symbol as one of rural anticapitalist resistance. That's pretty hot of them, taking something that the rich and bougie proletariat use to mock rural community and using it as a sign of strength and resistance.

Now I'm impressed with possums!

Right? Not only that, but they've got cute little hands! And they've got whiskers all over their mouth; not just like a cat where there are three of them, but like all of it, everywhere. And they have prehensile tails, which is fucking amazing. I don't even have prehensile thumbs.

Wait, prehensile? What does that mean?

They can move it and grab stuff with it. And they are North America's only marsupial... They keep the little baby opossums in the little pouch on their belly.

I didn't know that!

Yeah, they're great! They are illegal to own as a pet. I can't remember if because they're endangered or because of how badly they take to domestication. But there are a lot of allowances for orphaned opossums are taken care of by some kind of wildlife rehabilitation act, which is where you see a lot of social media people posting about having possums in their house.

Yeah, I've seen a lot of possum pet memes.

Yeah, I mean most of them are gonna be people who just wrangled in a possum and force-domesticated it, but I would like to believe that when I get my opossum companion it's because the trash in my apartment just smells so inviting.

But this is all part of a larger thought process of mine about the way we view animals as either good and bad, which is super fucking annoying. Bees for example is my favorite one. There's so much modern movement towards loving bees and respecting bees, so much about bees, and then a very common thing in the same token is propaganda against wasps. That bees are friendly, they'll only sting you if you bother them, and they don't wanna sting you because they can only sting once

before they die, whereas wasps will sting you for no reason because they're angry bastards. That is just wrong, that is just so wrong. I have held and carries so many wasps... I think most of the reason bees get that kind of great PR is because we can exploit them and they can do something for us. We have honey farms, we know them as great pollinators, that kind of stuff. Wasps really don't do that. We love cows, cows do things for us and that's why we have a love for them, but animals that tend to be more aggressive, that really don't produce anything we can exploit, we have this insane fear and hatred of them. Wasps don't produce anything that we can take from them, but they're not nearly as aggressive as they are thought to be. Reptiles, there's another one. There's not a lot that we can take from reptiles, but a lot of people keep them as pets, because, as I'm sure you know Olivia, reptiles are so cuddly.

Yeah. Well, I don't really know that, but I can imagine it. I trust that [our mutual friend] is onto something with their reptile obsession.

My own bio father had a pet crocodile in LA, super illegally, but he had a crocodile for years. My mom was a huge fan of monitor lizards and she had one growing up too; Oscar was friendlier than any dog.

So yeah. a lot of animals get heat just because the human race can't exploit anything from them, and it kind of shows the way we treat other people. It's showing of the Us versus Them didactic that's used to justify whether something is good or bad. If it can do something for us then we consider it good and we'll throw a bunch of affection and love at it, but if it does something only for itself and nothing that can be exploited, if it doesn't produce any honey that we can use, we tend to hate and reject them and put propaganda against it. Which is obviously metaphorical for, like, fucking everything.

Woah. Okay, let's continue on. Possums...

Possums.

Hmm... have you seen the downtown Brattleboro possums? Oh-possum or uh-possum.

Uh-possum. My profile picture on instagram is actually of an opossum in our staircase in our apartment. We have one skunk; she's quite lovely but she doesn't pay rent. She's cool with all of us, she's like a cat and we just let her do her thing. We typically don't see the opossums until two or three a.m. in apartment if we're still up and walking around. They love to hang out in our trash-filled common area, which is sick! So I ran into that once when I was coming in one night, and it

was just chillin next to the banister, wide awake, didn't try to play dead with me, and I just snapped a picture and left him alone.

Aww. I didn't realize you guys had opossums in your apartment. The one opossum I saw was with [our mutual, reptile-obsessed friend] at a playground downtown at night, and they were like, "I have to take a picture and send it to Jhivan," and it was super far away and super blurry... I didn't know you very well so I was like, "I guess this Jhivan really likes these spooky animals..".

I just fucking love those furry little dudes. They're chill, they've got nothing we can exploit but they really do so much for local ecosystem for pest control... which, again, not too much hate on mosquitos and ticks [because they don't do that much bad], but they're a great metaphor for the rich.

I saw a picture of a lil' possum eating ticks off a deer's face, and apparently it was helpful because baby deer in the area were dying because of a mad tick infestation, and the point of the post was, like, "So now you know, nature is kind!".

Yeah, nature is kind. This is part of another thing that I have, that there is a huge cultural difference towards nature from a colonizing headspace to a more native headspace. Let's use the media as an example, because that's a great way to look at how culture thinks. There are a lot of movies centered around nature as a conflict, of human vs. nature. Shows where you have to be aggressive to survive, you have to be tough as nails to survive in the woods. Stuff like *The Remnants*, the one that Leo Dicaprio got the Oscar for. And that's fair, it's true that a lot of the times nature is harsh, but also that mindset is kind of what creates it. If you talk to anyone who does that kind of thing, any kind of survivalism, it is dependant on a masculine framework of understanding of all of the elements of the world around you. Someone who goes out into nature with a much more peaceful, harmonious outlook, there is a huge difference in the effort they put into it. Which is pretty hot.

I like this interpretation of possums as [part of] a bigger picture.

If you escape pop prejudices and biases that opossums are dirty pests and that nature is something to fight, and you adopt a forgiving type of mindset, it kind of gets all a lot easier. I mean, I'm sure that if I did not love opossums so dearly, then I would never see one. But, now whenever I'm up at three.m., I'm probably going to see one in my driveway.

I think that's true, because a lot of times for me, when I've just kind of embraced a certain being or certain concept in the world, it shows up for me all the time. For

a while I was like, “Deer! Deer are what I need in my life right now” and then I just started seeing deer.

Yeah! They know, they know you’re calling them. I’m always going to bring every conversation to some spiritual, underlying-energy-is-everything bullshit place, but it’s real! Shit like that happens. You can’t prove or disprove it any more than you can trust it.

I feel like this conversation came full circle. Sweet, thank you for sharing with me about possums. Would you like to talk off the record just to see how you are now, how’s your life?

Yeah, I’ll take my professionalism off that I’ve worked so hard to put up.

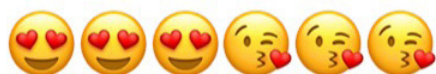
Wait one last thing, which possum are you on the chaotic/neutral/good chart again?

Oh, I’m definitely chaotic good, because I am even right now curled up with a blanket around my shoulders yelling about things I want.



SECTION LIES

What if we kissed at the Atkins traffic circle?



made with mematic
Submitted by Owen Nied



Submitted by Joshua Luo

Submitted by Kendra Clemenzi

I wasn't sure whether to include a disclaimer that this is a cypypasta meme and I don't actually like Jordan Peterson. The whole point of this cypypasta is to poke fun at his fans' attitudes. Could your editors add such a disclaimer if they believe that the meme is too obscure for the general Hampshire population to recognize?

To be fair, you have to have a very high IQ to understand Jordan Peterson. His arguments are extremely subtle, and without a solid grasp of evolutionary psychology most of the points will go over a typical person's head. There's also Dr. Peterson's Western individualist outlook, which is deftly woven into his online persona- his personal philosophy draws heavily from Enlightenment literature, for instance. The fans understand this stuff; they have the intellectual capacity to truly appreciate the depths of these points, to realize that they're not just right- they say something deep about LIFE. As a consequence people who dislike Dr. Jordan Peterson truly ARE idiots- of course they wouldn't appreciate, for instance, the depth of analysis of postmodern neo-Marxism. I'm smirking right now just imagining one of those addlepated simpletons scratching their heads in confusion as Dr. Peterson's genius wit unfolds itself on their computer screens. What fools.. how I pity them. ☹

And yes, by the way, i DO have a Dr. Jordan Peterson, PhD. tattoo. And no, you cannot see it. It's for the ladies' eyes only- and even then they have to demonstrate that they've cleaned their room beforehand. Nothin personnel kid ☹

Section Hate

Freewrite #11

By Sarah-Marie Taylor

“Bloodchild” by Octavia E. Butler is the bane of my existence, it’s safe to say that I am deeply disturbed by this story. So many things are going on at once (most of which should have never even been uttered.) with the state of the world and the unusual inhabitants that are occupying it. This story follows a boy named Gan and his relationship with his family and a kind of creature alien thing named T’Gatoi. The story doesn’t specify Gan’s age, which I find either as an act of mercy for the readers, or very alarming. The story moves along with T’Gatoi wanting Gan for something that Gan’s mother is against and doesn’t want him to do, not liking T’Gatoi even though it was made clear that she and T’Gatoi grew up together. It opens up with all of them sitting together drinking something out of an egg, that is later explained to keep them youthful, happy, and prolong their lives. Later on, it is made clear that T’Gatoi was training and conditioning Gan to be impregnated with her offspring; Gan who always liked and appreciated T’Gatoi’s presents, even knowing full well what he was to be brought up to do, (be impregnated with her eggs) he suddenly no longer feels comfortable doing such a thing. After witnessing the gruesome birth to what they call “blood children” by a man who was brought to them and was dying in their house, a feat that has worms living and eating the man’s body from the inside out. Wonderful. Gan, who threatens to shoot himself instead of being used, later relents with the fact that this was to be his fate so that T’Gatoi wouldn’t be forced to impregnate his older sister instead of him. The story concludes with both T’Gatoi and Gan in his room with T’Gatoi fertilizing her eggs inside of him.

Who does this story belong to? The answer should be no one. Ever. I may or may not be scarred for life. However, reading Butlers’ thoughts as to why she wrote this did shine some light as to why she chose to bestow this short story upon us. She couldn’t believe that people viewed the story as a sort of slavery, but I think it is, in some sort about slavery. An oppressed group, that being all humans, having to come to terms that they are nothing more than breeding property tools for these creatures, forced to live inside of a preserve at the bidding of these creatures. That sure sounds like a form of slavery to me.

Submitted by Tucker Catanzaro

Hello,

I'm submitting these because Olivia urged me too.
Can you put my name in really small font, thanks.

Here are some terrible fish memes that make me embarrassed of the fact that I study fish. Also if I could find a photo to represent Tinder guys who have fish photos on their profile I would've included that also.

With regret,
Tucker

